

11/8/99

Ken Scheidegger
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Delta Loop, CA 95641

Mr. Steve Ritchie
Acting Executive Director
CALFED
1416 Ninth St. #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear: Mr. Ritchie:

As I mentioned at the October 19, 1999 meeting in Walnut Grove of the Delta Ad Hoc Recreation Committee, the Delta Loop Association would like to propose for further consideration by Cal-Fed and cooperating agencies a project that would allow for the construction of a bike path around the Delta Loop of Andrus Island in the North Delta Area. The Delta Loop is centrally located with easy access from Highways 12 and 160, and it is one of the most active and representative destinational recreation areas to be found for both day use and longer term visits in the Delta.

Why should the Delta Loop Association propose a bike path around some eight miles of the Delta Loop? Reasons for this are many and varied, but the two major ones are as follows:

1. There are some 28 businesses on the eight miles of the Delta Loop along the shores of the Mokelumne and San Joaquin Rivers, but for the most part these same businesses remain somewhat "isolated" from one another. Of course, one can drive from business to business, but one cannot safely walk or bike between them. This is a major problem because the rivers are what make people want to recreate in this part of the Delta. As an example, a family who visits an RV park on the Delta Loop has trouble gaining access to the river frontage of the RV park they are visiting and they risk life and limb to walk along the river to nearby restaurants, marinas or fishing spots;
2. A bike path would afford much greater day use for people who would like to walk around along the river where they could watch the swans, geese and ducks in the winter; where they could watch river freighters go by or boaters enjoying various types of boating; where a family could walk along the river to see a sunset; or find the right place to fish; and where one could simply experience the solitude for which the Delta is known.

In summary, a bike path would contribute greatly to the enjoyment of those who visit the area for overnight visits while at the same time making it a great day use area for those who want to bike or walk through a very representative section of the Delta.

As we see it, this project would need general support of Cal-Fed, as it seeks to preserve the Delta ecosystem while improving or maintaining its recreational opportunities. Nor one person, business or association could ever do this, nor could one ever hope to deal with EIRS, agency to agency negotiations, and legal matters.

The Delta Loop Association also realizes for a bike path to be a truly successful project, other related matters need to be considered These include:

1. Work with the Brannan-Andrus Island Levee District to insure that the integrity of the levees is not compromised and that they are brought up to necessary widths and heights as needed;

2. Provide parking areas and restroom facilities. At the present time the Levee District owns and/or manages properties along the Loop where such "access points" could be located; individual property owners may be able to make space available; and
3. Construct of an Information Center where information on the region could be provided to the visitors.

In conclusion, we feel that this proposed project is consistent with the goals of Cal-Fed to recognize, enhance and establish new types of recreational opportunities in the Delta while at the same time working toward securing the levees and the Delta for future generations

Sincerely,



Ken Scheidegger
Delta Loop Recreation Association